NOAA'S SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Silver Spring, Maryland

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between the nation's universities and NOAA with the legislative mandate "to increase the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources by providing assistance to promote a strong educational base, responsive research and training activities, broad and prompt dissemination of knowledge and techniques, and multidisciplinary approaches to environmental problems."

Sea Grant is national in scope and yet locally implemented. Today Sea Grant consists of 30+ university-based programs that conduct integrated programs of research, education and outreach involving over 3,000 scientists, engineers, outreach experts, educators and students drawn from over 300 institutions. Sea Grant's investments are focused on high priority issues such as aquaculture, marine biotechnology, coastal communities and economies, coastal hazards mitigation, ecosystems and habitats, fisheries and seafood technology, the urban coast, ocean technology, and education.

Brief History:

Based on the land grant concept, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island and Congressman Paul Rogers of Florida introduced legislation in 1965 to create the Sea Grant College Program. Sea Grant was officially established in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill making it part of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Sea Grant became part of NOAA at its inception in 1970.

The Secretary of Commerce designated the first four Sea Grant Colleges (HI, TX, RI, WA) in 1971 and 13 additional states had Sea Grant programs. In 1976, the Sea Grant Act added the Sea Grant Review Panel, an advisory committee to the Secretary, the Administrator of NOAA, and the NOAA Sea Grant Director. In 1977, the Sea Grant Intern Program was initiated (later renamed the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship) to bring outstanding graduate students to Washington to develop leadership skills in coastal and ocean science policy. By the early 1980's, nearly all-coastal and Great Lakes states had Sea Grant programs, and over the next two decades these states had designated Sea Grant Colleges. Three new programs are under development (PA, Lake Champlain VT/NY, and the U.S. affiliated Pacific islands).

In the early 1990s, Congress legislatively imposed a five percent administrative cap on Sea Grant, which is still in place. In 1994, the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council (NRC) issued a report resulting from their study of the Sea Grant program that advised several changes. It recommended Sea Grant implement network-wide strategic planning, a national initiatives program, shared decision making with the Sea Grant programs, and performance-based evaluations of all Sea Grant programs on a recurring cycle. It also concluded

that Sea Grant was not properly positioned within NOAA to contribute optimally to its mission, and recommended that Sea Grant report directly to the NOAA Administrator. Except for Sea Grant's position in NOAA, all NRC recommendations were implemented and eventually codified in Sea Grant's 1998 reauthorization. The Sea Grant Review Panel's Byrne Committee on Extension (2000) and Duce Committee on the NOAA Sea Grant Office (2002) both reviewed Sea Grant's placement within NOAA. The Byrne report recommends a new NOAA office of outreach, reporting to the Administrator, which would include Sea Grant, while the Duce report recommends maintaining Sea Grant within OAR.

In FY2001, the Administration proposed moving Sea Grant to NSF, but the proposal did not find support in Congress. In 2002, the Sea Grant reauthorization provided several significant changes. It mandates that all appropriations above the FY03 level be awarded on the basis of merit ratings and competition, and it dictates that the NRC evaluate Sea Grant's performance review procedures and report to Congress by 2006. The legislation also requires closer cooperation between NOAA and NSF on research, a strategic planning cycle every four years, fostering of new Sea Grant programs in unserved coastal areas, and making reports to Congress on these activities.

Sea Grant's FY03 appropriation was $62.2 million (with $2 million covered by carryover). In FY04, Sea Grant's authorized funding level is $93 million which includes a general authorization of $75 million plus another $18 million for specific programs in invasive species, oyster disease, fisheries extension, and harmful algal blooms. The general authorization ramps up to $85 million by FY08.

Financial Profile **(Dollars in Thousands)**

Fiscal Year	Permanent Funding	Other NOAA	Non-NOAA	Pass Through	**TOTAL**
FY 2001	61865.2	10100	518	0	72483.2
FY 2002	62410	16585.8	121		79116.8
FY 2003	60410	8894	205		69509

Permanent Base = Sea Grant Appropriated Funds Only

Other NOAA = just shows funds obligated, does not take into account carryover

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Personnel Data

FY	FEDERAL EMPLOYEES	JOINT INSTITUTE	Contractors	TOTAL
FY 1999	16	0	1	17
FY 2000	18	0	1	19
FY 2001	18	0	1	19
FY 2002	19	0	1	20
FY 2003	18	0	3	21

Sea Grant Review Panel Members not included in above chart. There are 15 members of the Sea Grant Review Panel- the average amount of time spent annually in Sea Grant activities equals to about one FTE.

Includes a Sea Grant FTE that is supported by NOS funding
Does not include NMFS Sea Grant Liaison of a NMFS employee on detail to SG.

Average Age Federal/Scientific/Engineering and Technical Staff 48.8

Federal Staff PhD 38% MS 29%